

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 1, 2006. Applicant files with this paper a petition for one month extension of the period for response. Reexamination and prompt favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to claim 1. Applicant amends claim 1 to remove the objected language. The removed language was redundant and so this amendment does not vary the scope of claim 1.

The Office Action objected to claim 7. Applicant amends claim 7 to simplify the claim language. The simplified language is believed to have the same scope as the prior language of claim 7.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 as indefinite. Applicant disagrees with the rejection and submits that claim 1 is definite if the common definitions of the identified terms are used. Nevertheless, applicant amends claim 1 to remove the identified language to expedite the prosecution of this application. These amendments are intended to maintain the scope of claim 1.

The Office Action rejects claim 7 as indefinite. Applicant disagrees with the rejection and submits that claim 7 is definite if the common definitions of the identified terms are used. Nevertheless, applicant amends claim 1 to remove the identified language to expedite the prosecution of this application. These amendments are intended to maintain the scope of claim 7.

None of the limitations of independent claims 1 and 7 is met by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. As an initial consideration, the Waters patent, U.S. Patent No. 6,564,216, does not describe anything about domain names or changing the information associated with domain names. The secondary "InterNIC reference" describes only a conventional process for the registrant to register and update domain name information. There is nothing about a domain

name management system that allows a registrant to designate an agent to accomplish domain name maintenance operations. There is nothing in the cited references about a domain name management system that can determine if an agent has been authorized by the administrative contact for a domain name to make changes to that domain name.

The Office Action did not address the "authorization checker" limitation of claim 1 or the "authentication checker" limitation of claim 7. This is most simply seen by the complete absence of any discussion of communicating with a contact such as an administrative contact for a domain name. As described in the application, the domain management system may perform a Whois operation to identify from the shared registry system (or elsewhere) the administrative contact for the active domain name. To authenticate the rights of an agent or operator, the administrative contact communicates with the domain name management system of the application. This is not described in the Waters patent, which is absolutely silent on domain names and so is equally silent with respect to administrative or other contacts for domain names. The InterNIC reference does not describe communicating with the administrative or other contact for a domain name and does not describe the administrative or other contact for a domain name authorizing an agent or operator to make changes to information about the domain name within the shared registry system.

The Examiner previously agreed that the Waters patent does not teach anything about domain names. The InterNIC reference does not teach the authorization or authentication processes associated with the present invention. What is described in the InterNIC reference is a plan that allows the recognized contact for a domain name to make changes to the contact information or to make changes about a name server:

“To change information for the existing contact – the contact modifies his/her contact record using Contact Template

To change information about a name server – contact for the host uses Host Template to modify record ...

[T]he contacts listed on the Domain Name Registration Agreement are individuals or organizations who are authorized to act on behalf of a domain name’s registrant in matters related to the domain name.” InterNIC reference at 4 (emphasis added)

The InterNIC reference makes it clear that only the recognized contact for a domain name is able to make changes to the domain name information. As noted above, the Waters patent does not teach anything about domain names and so does not teach anything about making changes to domain name information.

By contrast, the present application describes a system that allows an agent to act for a domain name registrant. The domain management system allows an administrative contact to authorize an agent to make changes to a domain name’s zone information and other information. The domain management system may store authorization information so that the domain management system does not need to reauthorize an agent or operator that has earlier been authorized. Such a system is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Claim 1 distinguishes over the combination of the final Office Action by reciting:

“an authorization checker responsive to the identifying information about the agent, the authorization checker comparing the identifying information with stored information to determine if the agent is authorized to change information about the active domain name in the shared registry

system and, if the agent is not authorized to change information about the active domain name in the shared registry system, the authorization checker generating a communication to the administrative contact to determine if the agent is to be authorized within the domain name management system to change information about the active domain name in the shared registry system.”

The combination cited in the Office Action only allows a contact to make changes to domain name information and so would never provide a mechanism for an agent to be authorized to make such changes. Consequently, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-6 distinguish over the cited art and are in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 distinguishes over the combination of the final Office Action by reciting:

“an authentication checker that determines, in response to the identification information input by the operator, if a contact identified in the shared registry system for the active domain name has authorized the operator to change information within the zone file for the active domain name, the authentication checker preventing changes to the zone file for the active domain name if the operator is not authorized.”

The combination cited in the Office Action only allows a contact to make changes to domain name information and so would never provide a mechanism for an agent to be authorized to make such changes. Consequently, claim 7 and its dependent claims 8-20 distinguish over the cited art and are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

Appl. No. 09/587,403
Amdt. Dated February 21, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 1, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81866.0025
Customer No.: 26021

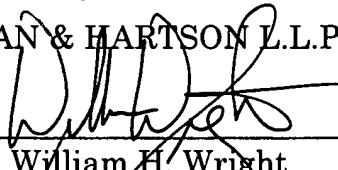
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4670 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: February 21, 2007

By: _____


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